2:Gough E-4, 5 (1947-1949)1961 A Wil Kerala A Wil
Central Kerala Nayar

the lineage they were legally mandatory. The local caste assembly, with the backing of royal or chiefly authority, could take action against offenders. Intra-lineage incest was indeed a crime punishable by death. As a matter of courtesy, lineage members extended appropriate kinship terms to one another.

Unless it was declining in numbers and had shrunk to the proportions of a single household, the lineage was not an economic unit. Its members did not jointly own an estate and did not coöperate in the production or distribution of goods. These functions accrued to the small segment of a lineage occupying a single homestead, which I call a property group. Lineage kin *were* the residual heirs of a property group which died out. However, such reversion of property was rare. A property group which had no childbearing women usually adopted one or more girls from some other branch of the lineage in order to perpetuate itself.

A "commoner" lineage had no headman. Its oldest man commanded special respect but he had no legal authority over the lineage as a whole. The office of headman of the lineage existed only in village headmen's, chiefly, and royal lineages. Here the political office was theoretically vested in the eldest man of the lineage, irrespective of branch. These lineages had a somewhat different structure, discussed below.

The members of a lineage engaged in coöperative activities at two major life crises: the pre-puberty marriage rite of girls, and the funeral of a member, followed by offerings to the departed spirit on the fifteenth and sixteenth days after the death.

Both of these occasions involved the caste assembly of the neighborhood and the institution of linked lineages or *enangar*. The caste assembly comprised the eldest men (*kāranavar*) of all the property groups. It met periodically on a mound (tara) near the Bhagavadi temple of the neighborhood to manage the temple's affairs. It also judged offenses against the religious laws of the caste.

Each lineage was linked by hereditary ties of ceremonial coöperation to two or three other lineages of the neighborhood. These linkages were reciprocal but not exclusive. For example, lineage A might have as enangar B, C, and D, whereas B might have A, E, and F, and so on. A chain of such relationships therefore linked all lineages of the neighborhood.

The enangar were partners who offered help in a ceremonial manner at all major life crises. They stood as formal links between the lineage and the total neighborhood group, which was called the *enangu*. In

of these schemes is being expanded to handle 250 maunds per day during the Third Plan. Under these schemes, milk from the surrounding villages would be collected and pasteurized before bottling them for sale. The schemes will serve a two-fold purpose: (*i*) they will give incentive for a higher production of milk in the rural areas by offering fair prices and (*ii*) they will provide hygienic milk to the urban population at a reasonable price. The unscrupulous middleman will be eliminated by this process.

3.29 The dairy development programme of this type needs to be taken up on a much larger scale than at present. This is necessary to provide an outlet for the likely increase in milk production and for making hygienic fluid milk available to the urban people. Owing to acute shortage of clean and pure milk in the urban areas, milk supply schemes of the type discussed above might prove a great success. It would be good if all the urban areas with a population of over 30,000 are served with such schemes. According to 1951 Census there were 13 towns in Kerala with a population exceeding 30,000. At the end of the Second Plan, 11 among these were still without any milk scheme. It is, therefore, suggested that these milk schemes should be organized in all these towns. The capacity, investment required, etc., for these schemes is given in Table 22.[2]

3.30 Many of the dairy units proposed here may find it difficult to get sufficient quantities of milk from the surrounding areas owing to the poor yield of animals and low marketable surplus with the farmers. In order to justify collection, marketing and sales organization of even the smallest size, it is considered necessary to have a handling capacity of 150 maunds per day. In case sufficient milk is not available, which is likely to be the case at least in some centres, a part of the capacity may be utilized for bottling reconstituted milk. Reconstituted milk can be of various types depending upon the fomulae. Milk powder is a common ingredient in all the types. A survey of consumer preference and tastes may be conducted before choosing the type, and part of the demand for fluid milk may be met in this way. Such a survey is essential before embarking upon the actual production of reconstituted milk because the new product may meet considerable consumer resistance in its initial stages. Propaganda and other measures to popularize the use of reconstituted milk will also have to be taken up side by side.

3.31 In smaller towns, that is, those with less than 30,000 population, cooperatives for supply of milk, may be organized with consumers or producers. There were 12 such societies in 1958. These societies should be encouraged.

3.32 Munnar is a region which possesses the potential for growth into a large scale commercial dairy farming centre. Many exotic cattle breeds[1] are thriving in the region. The performance of some of the herds maintained by a few sterling tea companies is said to be of a high order and compares favourably with that of similar herds maintained in the countries from which these cattle are imported. It is suggested that the Department of Animal Husbandry should further investigate the economic feasibility of commercial dairying in the Munnar region. If the investigation reveals prospects, the State may organize a few such dairy farms in the public

[1] Jersey and Holstein.

[2] [Table 22, appearing on p. 286 of the text, has not been processed. – Adapter]

11: India G-4, 5 (1960-1961) 1962 AWII Kerala AWII

sector. The dairy farms may also take up the manufacture of high value items such as creamery products and *cheddar* cheese.

Processing and Marketing of Poultry Products

3.33 Proper disposal of poultry products is also a pressing need. At present there are a number of private as well as cooperative organizations in the Travancore-Cochin area for collecting and marketing poultry products. Some of them have even inter-State connections. These organizations have rendered satisfactory service to the poultry industry in Kerala. Credit goes to them for having developed export demand for poultry products of the State. All these organizations, however, are faced with serious limitations to further expansion and more efficient working. Their main problem is inadequate working capital. The other difficulties are: (*i*) lack of cold storage facilities, (*ii*) inadequate availability of transport aids and containers for safe transit, and (*iii*) lack of technical guidance. The State should take steps to remove these difficulties. It is suggested that the State should encourage municipalities to construct cold storage godowns. This would benefit not only the poultry industry, but also other activities such as horticulture, meat packing and fisheries. The other needs could be largely looked after by the Development Blocks. It is also suggested that the poultry cooperatives should be asked to grade eggs before marketing them.

3.34 It may not be possible to find market either inside or outside the State for all the marketable surplus in poultry products in the future. This fear is justified in view of the fact that significant development in poultry industry has taken place in some of the egg-importing States such as West Bengal, Madras, Punjab and Bombay under the Second Plan. It may, therefore, be expected that the production of eggs and other items in these States would increase considerably by the end of the Third Plan. Such a development would hit Kerala's exports adversely. In order to guard against such consequences, it is desirable that alternative means of disposal of eggs and poultry meat are planned now. The best method would be to set up a combined egg powder-cum-meat packing plant in a convenient location somewhere in the Travancore-Cochin area. The in take of the plant may be of the order of 30,000 eggs and 500 to 1,000 birds per day. The birds may be processed for preservation and packed in polyethelene bags in convenient numbers. A product like this is bound to be popular all over the country. The plant would need an investment of Rs. 3 lakhs.

3.35 Animal husbandry needs State support and help in other ways too. Loans from the State Government to both processers and cooperatives would be of a great help. The average farmer is at present unable to take to livestock-keeping as a subsidiary occupation on account of lack of funds for investment as well as for working capital. Normal farming agencies like banks and cooperatives do not serve them because of their non-credit worthiness and the uncertain nature of livestock business. Seeking the help of local money-lenders would be too expensive for these ventures. Only the State can solve the problem of rural credit in a situation of this type by making available larger *takavi* funds, arranging for loans through banks and cooperatives, by agreeing to share the risks, etc.

5.5 The average annual landing of marine (coastal) fish is estimated at 260,000 tons (35% of the all-India output) and the gross value of marine catches at Rs. 6.5 crores.

5.6 The catches from coastal waters comprise such commercially important species of fish as Sardines (20%), Prawns (13%), Mackerel (11%), Sharks (5%), Silverbellies (4%), Horse Mackerel (4%), Sole (3%) and Ribbon fish (3%). According to a sample survey conducted by the ICAR in Travancore-Cochin area, about 61 per cent of the total landings are consumed in fresh condition and the remaining part is utilized in various fish-based industries. (An alternative estimate by the State Fisheries Department puts the ratio as fifty-fifty.)

5.7 Dug-out, plank-built canoes and catamarans are the main types of crafts employed for fishing. Dug-out canoes are more popular throughout the State. Boat seines, gill nets, lines and hooks, coast nets and shore seines are the important tackle used in Kerala. Drift nets are used for catching Sardines, Mackerels and Sharks while long lines are sometimes employed for exploiting Horse Mackerels and Shark fisheries.

5.8 During the last decade efforts have been made to introduce mechanized fishing in order to raise the outturn and improve per capita income of the fishermen. Experiments for mechanizing indigenous boats and introducing suitable new types of mechanized crafts have been carried out in the State with the help of FAO experts and the Indo-Norwegian Project. However, unlike Maharashtra, Kerala has made very little progresss in mechanizing its fishing activity. This is mainly explained by the fact that the indigenous crafts in use in Kerala at present, have been found unsuitable for the installation of engines. Thus, to introduce mechanized boats, new boats have to be designed and constructed. As a result of a number of investigations and trials, a few small mechanized boats, ranging from 20 to 26 feet in length, have been recently introduced in the State. The Indo-Norwegian Project has so far issued 88 mechanized boats to the fishermen who completed training with the project. In addition to these, the State Fisheries Department has also issued 39 mechanized vessels. Of these, 25 have been issued to fishermen; of the rest, some are operated by the Department at training centres for transportation of fish and some still remain idle.

5.9 In Kerala, as in some other marine States of India, mechanized boats are issued at subsidized rates to fishermen's cooperatives, groups of fishermen and to trainees who have been trained at one of the two Training Centres in the State. The quantum of subsidies is in line with the all-India pattern, that is, 50 per cent of the cost of engine, 25 per cent of the cost of hull and 33⅓ per cent on that of fishing nets and gears.[1]

5.10 The Indo-Norwegian Project is playing an important role in the development of fisheries in Kerala. The project aims at the improvement of socio-economic conditions of the fishermen. The programme envisages an increase in the production of fish as well as the earnings of the fishermen, improved handling and distribution of catches, the promotion of cooperative activities, and better sanitation and living conditions in the fishermen's villages. The project has also undertaken the supply of fish to the interior areas of the State. It provides most of the basic requirements of

[1] The Indo-Norwegian Project issued nets and gear on 80 per cent and hull and engine on 50 per cent subsidy in the beginning.

11: India G-4,5 (1960-1961) 1962 AW11 Kerala AW11

the fishing industry, owns a boat-building yard, a workshop, a cold storage and refrigeration plant and runs a training centre. The fishing villages are thus being developed into what may be called Integrated Fishing Centres.

5.11 *Off-shore Fishing*: An attempt to introduce exploratory and commercial off-shore fishing operations from Cochin port was made by the Travancore-Cochin Government as early as in 1940. A Government sponsored private company operated three large-sized (65 feet to 90 feet) vessels for a time. But these operations proved abortive and were given up owing to lack of trained crew and absence of docking and repairing facilities. Thorough exploratory investigations have been on for the last few years, and at present deep-sea fishing is being carried on jointly by the Government of India and the Indo-Norwegian Project.

5.12 *Chank Fisheries*: With the transfer of some areas of Travancore-Cochin to Madras at the time of the reorganization of States, Kerala has lost some of its important chank fishing centres along the Kanyakumari coast, and only a few centres of lesser importance, Thekkay Kollencode, Poovar, Pulinkudi, Poonthura, Shankumugham and Veri are now left with the State. The right of collection of chanks is annually auctioned on royalty basis, preference being given to cooperatives. The number of chanks collected and the money realized by the cooperatives in 1957-58 and 1958-59 were 26,629 chanks (for Rs. 16,361) and 18,355 chanks (for Rs. 9,177.50) respectively.

Inland Fisheries

5.13 Estuaries, backwaters and adjacent low-lying fields, rivers and canals, ponds, tanks and reservoirs comprise the inland fisheries of Kerala. According to the State Fisheries Department, the total production from these sources is at present about 50,000 tons per annum. This represents only 20 per cent of the total fish production in the State. The inland fish production of Kerala, though much lower than that of West Bengal (12,000 tons), compares favourably with that of Madras (40,000 tons).

Estuaries and Backwater Fisheries

5.14 The more important rivers opening directly into the sea and having permanent link with it are the Periyar, Bharatpuzha, Beypore, Billiapatam and Korapuzha. Regular fishing in the estuaries is done only during the south-west monsoon period (end of May to beginning of August) when fishing activities in the sea, owing to rough weather, are almost at a standstill. The estuarine catches include such varieties as Mullets, Milk Fish, Prawns of different types and Horse Mackerel.

5.15 The backwaters of Kerala covering approximately an area of about 300 square miles, are the most important source of inland fish production. The main areas are Ashtamudy, the Kayamkulam and the Vembanad, all situated in the Southern part of the State. The production from estuaries and backwaters is estimated by the State Fisheries Department at about 46,000 tons per annum. Prawns constitute the bulk of the catch which comprises, in addition to Prawns, Mullets, Bekti, Horse Mackerel and Engraulis.

11: India G-4,5 (1960-1961) 1962 AW11 Kerala AW11

433 442 443 organizational and physical. Most of the fish markets lack such facilities as adequate supply of water, drainage, proper flooring, wire screen, etc. Clean and hygienic conditions for the sale of fish should be created in all the consumption centres. A number of retail and wholesale fish markets should be built at all the major consumption centres. Twenty of these markets may be a good target for the next decade. Provision of fish storage facilities, by way of small refrigerated cabinets is also necessary in retail marketing. The capital cost for building these new markets and providing the storage cabinets would be about Rs. 20 lakhs of which Rs. 8 lakhs may be under the Third Plan. In order to ensure reasonable return to the fishermen it is imperative that cooperative marketing of fish should be expanded as much as possible.

Servicing of Marine Engines

433 504 5.53 The programme envisaged for mechanized fishing will call for adequate servicing and overhauling facilities. The Integrated Fisheries Development Centres, where most of the mechanized boats will be concentrated, should have properly equipped servicing stations. At least three such stations may be established by the end of the Third Plan, and another five by the end of the Fourth Plan. Together, the capital cost of these eight service stations will be about Rs. 4 lakhs.

Cooperatives

226 474 5.54 Fishermen's cooperatives in Kerala are not well developed. Most of the societies are credit societies. Only three cooperative societies are engaged in the manufacture of nets and two in the marketing of fish. Recently some Producer Cooperative Societies have been organized under the auspices of the Fisheries Department. Nets, boats, etc., are owned by these societies and the members carry on fishing on a cooperative basis.

433 226 474 5.55 Simultaneously with the development of fisheries in the next decade, the fisheries cooperative should also be strengthened. The aim should be to bring the majority of the fishermen within the cooperative fold. The Integrated Fisheries Development Centres should all be organized on a cooperative basis, covering all aspects of the industry.

Staff

433 228 647 655 5.56 The Fisheries Directorate appears to be adequately staffed for the work it has to deal with at present. However, the implementation of the expanded programme suggested in this report will not only entail a considerable strengthening of the existing staff, but also require certain new categories of technical personnel. It will be especially necessary to provide an adequate staff to man the mechanized boats and the technical services necessary to operate the boats. A number of training centres should be opened to train the fishermen in the art of mechanized fishing. In addition, each of the Integrated Fisheries Centres should have a trained Marketing Assistant to assist the fishermen and their Cooperatives in organizing the marketing of their catches. It

31: Slater S-5 (1916-1917) 1918 AWI India
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326 [465] father is usually the teacher of his children in the hereditary caste. A good workman can earn from about 8 annas to 10 annas per day.

438 *Village trade.*—Iron ware used for domestic utensils and for agricultural purposes is got from Trichur, the nearest town. There are however a few retail shops in the 'town.' All articles of consumption are bought from retail shops, the retail keepers themselves getting their wares from either Trichur or Palghat.

Rice is the principal commodity. Arecanut and to some extent pepper and bamboos form important items of sale. There is a fair half a mile to the north of the 'town' which meets once a week (every Wednesday), for the sale of arecanut and pepper. Merchants from various parts of Malabar and even from the east of the Ghats come here to buy arecanuts. Vegetables and sundries also are exposed for sale for the use of the villagers only.

361 491 The main metalled road which passes from Shoranur to Trichur passes through the middle of the 'town.' Another road from the west touches the main road to the north of the 'town.' The Shoranur-Cochin Railway touches this place. The commercial town of Trichur is only ten miles to the south.

474 Co-operation in trading as well as in most other affairs is conspicuous by its absence. A Registrar of Co-operative Societies has recently been appointed in the State, and, I am told, gave one or two lectures in the place, but nothing came of it. I have hopes that a co-operative credit society will be started within a few years. I may mention that such credit societies have been opened in three places in the taluk and are receiving much help from the State. The co-operative principle as yet is not extended to trading, but with the development of knowledge and culture this may come.

Economic condition—

465 Statement showing wages (in *money*) for the whole State.

Workers.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Maximum in villages.
	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	Rs. A.
Carpenters	0 6	1 0	0 8
Blacksmiths	0 6	0 12	0 8
Masons	0 6	0 14	0 8
Bricklayers	0 7	0 12	0 8
Sawyers	0 10	1 0	Piece-worker.
Coolies –			
Male	0 4	0 10	0 6
Female	0 3	0 6	0 3
Boys	0 2	0 4	0 2

To Cherumans payment is made in kind (see above). Also wages are paid in kind to agricultural workers in the village area especially during the harvest season.